

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-61 are pending in this application. Claims 9-29 and 37-61 have been withdrawn from consideration. Of the remaining claims for consideration (i.e., claims 1-8 and 30-36), claims 1 and 30 are independent. All of the remaining claims stand rejected. By this amendment, independent claims 1 and 30 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-7 and 30-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,774,565 to Freeman ("Freeman") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0061063 to Otto ("Otto").

The Examiner states that Freeman discloses each and every element of independent claims 1 and 30 except for the "compression" unit/step of the claims. Otto is then cited as disclosing the compression unit/step of the claims.

Freeman discloses a method and apparatus to reconstruct missing color samples in which the image signal is linearly interpolated and the color fringe artifacts of difference signal values are removed by the median filters.

Otto discloses a digital compression of color images for storing in a database. Applicant notes that Otto uses an automated chromakey method in compression for filtering out the noise signals in the color images.

Independent claims 1 and 30 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 recites an image sensing apparatus including “a thinning unit configured to thin the image data in which the pseudo color components are reduced by said color removing unit, wherein the thinning process complies with a predetermined compression method; and a compression unit configured to compress the image data in which the ratio of the color components are changed by said thinning unit and the pseudo color components are reduced by said color removing unit, wherein said compression unit compresses the image data according to the predetermined compression method.” Claim 30 has been amended in a similar way. Support for the amendments may be found in Fig. 1 and the first full paragraph of page 15 of the original specification.

One of the aspects of the invention as featured in amended claims 1 and 30 is to perform a thinning operation between the pseudo color reducing operation and the compression operation. This prevents a residual pseudo color element from spreading out to the peripheral pixels.

Neither Freeman nor Otto shows or suggests performing such a thinning operation between the pseudo color reducing operation and the compression operation.

Further, according to the present invention recited in claims 1 and 30, since image data is thinned out after reducing the pseudo color components, a high quality image can be obtained. If the image data was thinned out before reducing the pseudo color components, it is possible to deteriorate the resolution of the image.

Accordingly, each of claims 1 and 30 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Freeman and Otto, either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

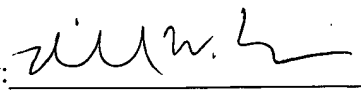
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees that may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4607). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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